

***Nevada Division of Environmental Protection
Nevada Rural Water Association***

***Nevada Wellhead Protection Program
Fact Sheet***

What is Wellhead Protection and Why is it Important?

Wellhead protection is one way a community can protect its current and future drinking water supply. The majority of public drinking water systems in Nevada rely upon ground water. Preventive action such as wellhead protection is important because remediation of contaminated ground water is expensive and, in some cases, it may be impossible to return the water to drinking water quality.

The goal of wellhead protection is to protect the ground water flowing to the well. The land surface area above the well's capture zone, or wellhead protection area, is defined for each well. Potential contaminant sources that are located inside the wellhead protection area are identified and managed to prevent releases to ground water.

Wellhead protection programs (WHPPs) are developed and managed at the local level (public water system, town or city), and are appropriate for communities of any size. Some of the first communities in Nevada to develop wellhead protection programs include Fernley, Carson City, Stagecoach, Lovelock, Beatty, Austin, Yerington, Winnemucca, and several mobile home parks.

Financial and Technical Assistance Available!

In Nevada, the State Division of Environmental Protection and the Nevada Rural Water Association can provide guidance and technical assistance with the various program elements. The State also offers non-match grants for the development and implementation of wellhead programs.

How Can I Get More Information?

For more information about the Nevada Wellhead Protection Program, contact:

The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Water Pollution Control
(775) 687-4670

The Nevada Rural Water Association (775) 884-2055